assets and profits of the three companies as on 31.3.2002 were as under:

	Total Assets (Rs./crores)	Profit After Tax (Rs./crores)
ONGC	37897.00	6198.00
HPCL	10242.00	788.00
BPCL	8545.01	849.83

(b) There is no proposal to privatise ONGC. Regarding HPCL and BPCL, the Government have taken an in-principle decision to disinvest in HPCL and BPCL through strategic sale. The main objective of disinvestment of government shareholding in public sector undertakings (PSUs) is to make them more competitive and market oriented by involving strategic partners.

Hike in Oil prices

719. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figure of hike of international crude price and the Central Government hiked petrol and diesel prices during the period 2002 to till date; and

(b) the reason for not passing the decrease in international crude price to the consumer during the past two year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Before the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1.4.2002, the price of some of the petroleum products used to be cross-subsidized by the price of other products through the oil pool account mechanism. As the oil pool account was in deficit, it was not always possible to pass on the decrease in the international oil price, if any, to the domestic consumers. However, the Government reduced the consumer price of petrol and diesel effective 12th January, 2002 and again effective 1st March, 2002.

With the dismantling of APM, the oil companies are fixing the consumer price of petrol and diesel after taking into account the prevalent international oil prices. Considering the increase in the average Indian crude oil basket price, from around US $ 19.50 per barrel for the month of February 2002 to around US $ 25 per barrel for the month of May 2002, the oil companies increased the retail selling price of petrol and diesel by around Rs. 2.50 per litre and Rs. 1.50 per litre respectively from 4th June, 2002 and by around Rs. 0.25 per litre for each product for each product from 16th June 2002.

Allocation of CNG to Delhi

720. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of CNG for Delhi has been increased as reported in The Times of India dated 21st June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of increase in allocation of CNG in Delhi, the CNG vehicles have to wait for hours together to get the supplies; and

(d) if so, the details of the other steps taken to mitigate the hardships being faced by CNG vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has increased allocation of natural gas to Indraprashtha Gas Limited (IGL) from 0.98 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCM D) to 2.00 MMSCMD in the month of June, 2002. However, the supply of gas depends on the availability of commensurate infrastructure such as compression capacity and dispensing capacity. Further, in order to improve the availability of Compressed Natural Gas(CNG) the IGL has planned to increase the number of compressors from 58 at present to 111 by June,2003. This will increase the compression facility from 6.91 lakh Kg. per day to 16.11 lakh Kg. per day. IGL is also expanding its pipeline infrastructure.